

CASE REPORTS

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Clinical Depression and Suicide

THERE EXISTS a powerful clinical bias not to understand depression as an illness, but rather to explain it away. A recent study of completed suicides makes two striking and uncomfortable observations: . . . the vast majority of these patients were under the recent care of a physician, and . . . a review of their records showed that clinicians had documented sufficient signs and symptoms to make a diagnosis of clinical depression . . . without having done so.

—HENRY R. BLEIER, MD, Philadelphia

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